fuzzzycat is Xbox Ambassador of the Month for March 2022!

Community NerdyBirdy Mar 1, 2022

Our newest Xbox Ambassador of the Month and Community Champion is fuzzzycat! They joined the program back in Season 20 and are already a Level 4 member of the Xbox Ambassadors community. If you've spent much time in the Xbox Ambassadors Discord server you've likely encountered them there and had your day brightened by their positive attitude, sunny disposition, and excellent Gamertag. Read on below for a Q&A with fuzzzycat and remember to say hi and congrats the next time you see them around.

Fuzzycat

How did gaming become one of your passions?

I grew up without computers or gaming consoles, in Soviet-occupied Latvia. My first time playing a computer game was at my mom's university lab in 1986, a text-based Minesweeper equivalent in Russian, with green text on a small black screen. It was not until the mid-1990s that personal computers and MS-DOS games became somewhat commonplace. A large part of the appeal of gaming to me was getting games to run on old and slow devices and on Linux systems, making the impossible possible.

What's your favorite video game or franchise, and why?

Dragon Age holds a special place in my heart. The writing of the series is amazing and the characters truly come to life with their personal stories and relationships with the player character. The companions from all three games are like old friends to me, they have helped me get through difficult times in my life. The detailed worldbuilding also fascinates me as a lore nerd. As with most BioWare games, Dragon Age has a passionate community and incredible fan artists, cosplayers, and fanfiction writers, many of whom I follow and admire.

How long have you been an Xbox Ambassador for, and how did you first hear about the program?

I first heard about Xbox Ambassadors in an email on October 1, 2020 and joined the program on the same day. My initial reaction was “oh hey, perhaps I could contribute by bringing in a different perspective.” I tick several diversity boxes: I’m in my 40s, a parent, autistic, LGBTQ, and an immigrant several times over, so maybe not the image that comes to mind when you think of a stereotypical Xbox gamer.

Do you have a favorite Xbox Ambassadors memory that you’d like to share?

To me personally, the best moment was the realization that I was capable of playing online again. I have severe anxiety and had not played multiplayer games for years. Even just the thought of playing with random people caused panic. But when I joined the Ambassador discord I felt that it was a safe space and took the leap to play co-op with people who were kind and patient with me. Recently I realised that I no longer had this problem with joining online games, all thanks to my awesome Ambassador friends.

For you, what’s the most important line of the Xbox Ambassador Pledge and why?

“Be inclusive and welcoming of all gamers.” I don’t believe in defining a gamer as someone who plays specific games or is particularly good at them.

If you play games and like games, on any platform, at any skill level, you’re a gamer, you’re one of us, and you belong here.

What does a healthy community mean to you?

A healthy community to me is one that is supportive of its members and encourages participation, is open to friendly debate under consistent moderation, listens before judging, and tries to understand where each of us are coming from.

How do you think online communities positively impact the lives of gamers?

One of the best aspects of a community such as Xbox Ambassadors is meeting people from all over the world. I find myself very curious about the little facts I learn about other countries and can’t get enough of photos and stories. Things that are obvious to one person can be completely new to someone else and talking to other gamers online can broaden your horizons.

What do you like to do outside of gaming?

I read books almost as much as I play games, especially fantasy, science fiction, and history. I also love going for long walks on nature trails, along the beach or in the woods. In real life, I am an archaeologist. Contrary to what certain games tell you, I do not hunt for treasure, but I do enjoy visiting museums, castles, and historical places. My family and my two cats are very important to me.

As Ambassador of the Month, what message do you have for other members of the Xbox Ambassadors community?

It is often said that you should be kind to others. It is not said nearly enough that you should also be kind to yourself. You all are worthy and deserving of self-compassion and love.